

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** Claims 1-8 and **add** Claims 9-28 as indicated:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A method comprising:
- selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet;
 - creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells;
 - pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells; and
 - applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells that indicates that the destination range of cells contains a copy of the persistent copy of cells.
10. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
- applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells indicating that the persistent copy of cells has been created.
11. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the source visual appearance blinks if the persistent copy of cells is a most recently pasted group of cells to have been pasted into a destination range of cells in the electronic spreadsheet.
12. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.
13. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.
14. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background color.
15. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a background color.

16. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a font style.
17. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a font style.
18. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a font color.
19. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the source range of cells is a single cell.
20. (new) A method comprising:
selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet; and
creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells;
pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells; and
storing the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory.
21. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells
indicating that the destination range of cells contains a content of the persistent copy of cells; and
applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells indicating that the persistent copy of cells has been created.
22. (new) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
storing the destination visual appearance attribute and the source visual appearance attribute in the non-volatile memory.
22. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

using a copy-paste manager to control copy and paste operations in the electronic spreadsheet, the copy-paste manager allowing a user of the electronic spreadsheet to select:

a single copy-paste operation between a source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges of cells that is to be performed only once, or

a persistent copy-paste operation between the source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges may be performed multiple times using the persistent copy of cells.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that illustrates options to the user to select the single copy-paste operation or the persistent copy-paste operation.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

26. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background color.

27. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the source range of cells is a single cell.

28. (new) A method comprising:
selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet;
creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells;
pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells; and
applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells, the source visual appearance attribute being removed from the source range of cells only if a copy-paste

manager invokes a break-paste command that breaks a relationship previously established between the source range of cells and the destination range of cells.